

**Evidence for Assurance
Confession to Jesus' Lordship
1 John 4:15**

Sign 1: Certainty through Scripture – 1 John 4:1-6

Sign 2: Confession to Lordship – 1 John 4:15

Sign 3: Connection through the Spirit – 1 John 4:13

Sign 4: Conviction Against Sin – 1 John 1:15

Sign 5: Consistency toward Christlikeness – 1 John 2:3-6

Sign 6: Compassion toward Believers – 1 John 4:11-12

Sign 7: Cleansing through the Father – Hebrews 12:1-13

Sign 8: Continuing in the Lord – 1 John 4:16-18

How do we know whether or not we are truly Christians?

What are the tell-tale marks of a genuine Believer?

2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

→ Pic – Evidence for Assurance - Completed



Today we are starting with the first of these signs...

“Certainty through Scripture”

→ Pic – Evidence for Assurance - Confession



1 John 4:15 (ESV) — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

The first part of this verse is what we will deal with to begin...

1. AGREEMENT to the REAL Jesus

1 John 4:15 (ESV) — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

To begin, John is dealing with clarity on who Jesus is in reality...

→ *The Humanity of Jesus*

There were many from the Greek philosophic viewpoint that could not believe Jesus had an actual human body...

Because they believed the body was evil there would be no way Jesus could be clothed in humanity...

1 John 4:2 (ESV) — By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God

The Bible is clear that Jesus was “born of woman...”

Galatians 4:4–5 (ESV) — But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The incarnation... God becoming human is a difficult idea to wrap our minds around...

Luke 2:7 (ESV) — And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

→ *Pic of Bradley Palmer...*



This is our newest granddaughter!

Bradley Palmer – Born 06-09 – 8lbs 2oz – 20 inches

I want us to think for a minute about God becoming human...

Think about it...

- **God as a helpless infant...**
- **God being nourished by His mother...**
- **God having His diaper changed...**
- **God learning to crawl...**
- **God learning to walk...**
- **God learning to talk...**
- **God as an adolescent...**

It makes us very uncomfortable to think about doesn't it...

But THIS is the humanity of Jesus

→ *The Prophecy about Jesus*

Jesus is called, “Jesus Christ”

Jesus was not His middle name, nor was He called by a double name like “Billy Bob”...

Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah...

It signifies his office as anointed Savior and alludes to his spiritual qualifications for the task of saving his people.

The word derives from Greek Christos, which translates Hebrew Messiah (Jn 1:41).

Both terms come from verbs meaning “to anoint with sacred oil”; hence as titles they mean “the anointed one.”

Applied to Jesus, they express the conviction that he had divine appointment for his office and function.

John 1:41 (ESV) — He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

→ Prophecies regarding Jesus’ birth and lineage...

- **Born of a virgin**
- **Born in Bethlehem**
- **Born of the lineage of David**

→ Prophecies regarding Jesus’ miracles...

Matthew 8:16–17 (ESV) — That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

→ Prophecies regarding Jesus’ suffering...

Read Psalm 22 and Psalm 53!

→ Prophecies regarding Jesus’ resurrection...

Psalm 16:10 (NLT) — For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.

1 John 5:1a (ESV) — Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God ...

→ The Deity of Jesus

1 John 4:15 (ESV) — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ,

IS – Present active indicative

THE Son of God

John 10:24–25 (ESV) — So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me,

John 10:31–33 (ESV) — The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

1. AGREEMENT to the REAL Jesus

2. ALLEGIANCE to the RULE of Jesus

1 John 4:15 (ESV) — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

What does it mean to confess?

To confess means to express openly one's allegiance

It is often extremely difficult, if not impossible, to translate ὁμολογέω^a, ὁμολογία, and ἐξομολογέομαι^a by the usual expression for 'confess,' since this would usually imply that one has done something wrong. It is normally necessary, therefore, to employ quite a different type of relationship, usually involving a public utterance and an expression of confidence or allegiance. For example, in Mt 10:32 it may be necessary to translate 'whoever tells people publicly that he is loyal to me, I will tell my Father that I am loyal to that person.' Similarly, in He 10:23 one may translate 'let us hold on to the hope in which we have told people we have such confidence.' Likewise, in Ro 15:9 one may translate 'therefore I will tell the Gentiles how I have put my confidence in you.'

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV) — If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

What does it mean to confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord?

To “confess” we already know means to give allegiance to...

The term “Lord” means “master” “ruler” “the one who commands”

Then as the NLT translates “your mouth” to mean “openly declare”

So... a good translation of Romans 10:9a...

If you openly declare total allegiance to Jesus as the one who commands your life... you will be saved

Five times in the NT we are told something clearly by Jesus...

Matthew 16:24–26 (ESV) — Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

These first two points focused on the *activities of our confession* in Christ, while these last two points show the *realities of our possession* in Christ

1. AGREEMENT to the REAL Jesus

2. ALLEGIANCE to the RULE of Jesus

3. ANOINTING in the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Jesus

1 John 4:15 (ESV) — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

This anointing believers possess is the indwelling Holy Spirit

1 John 2:19–20 (ESV) — They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

1 John 2:27 (ESV) — But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Romans 8:16 (ESV) — The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

It is the Holy Spirit that dwells within a believer that produces the righteousness of Jesus...

Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV) — Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

1. AGREEMENT to the REAL Jesus

2. ALLEGIANCE to the RULE of Jesus

3. ANOINTING in the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Jesus

4. ABIDING in daily RELATIONSHIP with Jesus

1 John 4:15 (ESV) — Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Abiding means to “remain” ... “to stay continually connected”

John 15:5 (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

This “abiding” is a work the Holy Spirit does withing us...

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) — And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Evidence for Assurance
Confession to Jesus' Lordship
1 John 4:15**

1. _____ to the _____ Jesus

2. _____ to the _____ of Jesus

3. _____ in the _____ of Jesus

4. _____ in daily _____ with Jesus